

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



March 1991

Volume 4, Number 3

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

B.C. in National Literacy Teleconference

A "live by satellite" television event involving learners, community groups and literacy organizations in up to 60 communities across Canada, including B.C., is scheduled for nationwide cable broadcast Saturday, May 11.

"Literacy Alive" -- described by organizers as an "electronic town hall meeting" -- is a project of the United Nations Association of Canada, the National Literacy Secretariat, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, and the North York Board of Education (Ontario). Cooperating agencies include the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Movement for Canadian Literacy, and sponsors include the Royal Bank of Canada and Telecom Canada.

The project was developed as a U.N. contribution to International Literacy Year to support literacy activities in local communities, and is intended to link learners, educators, practitioners and concerned citizens in a participatory forum.

The U.N. Association of Canada (UNAC) was established in 1946 to encourage Canadian support for U.N. activities and has branches in 23 Canadian cities.

The six originating sites for the teleconference are British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories and the West Indies. The event will reach viewers coast-to-coast through a network of cable companies operating under special licence of the CRTC.

The objective is to target 4,000 participants in 40 to 60 participating sites and reach another 5,000 to 10,000 through receiving locations.

The conference format is designed to facilitate the participation of groups or individuals through interactive presentations, personal profiles, and a two-hour "hands-on" working session at each site.

The goals of the event, as outlined by conference organizers, are to:

- * increase understanding of literacy issues as described by learners
- * develop and support opportunities for improving literacy/numeracy skills in the workplace and community
- * develop and implement community action plans at the local, regional, national and international levels
- * establish a network for continuing dialogue

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The format for the event involves:

- * opening sessions at each community site
- * two broadcast portions
- * working sessions at each community site
- * closing sessions at each site

Some of the issues to be examined during working sessions are:

- * learner centered learning
- * accessing literacy resources
- * computer literacy
- * local support structures
- * workplace literacy
- * learner networks and agencies
- * partnership projects

The first broadcast portion of the conference (130 minutes) will open with an overview of the process by a national moderator and opening remarks from each originating site. This will be followed by a discussion between learners in four Canadian sites and one in the West Indies which will focus on case studies concerning literacy activities in the workplace and in the community. A second broadcast portion (80 minutes) will link all community sites in a "bearpit session" with a national moderator to share comments, questions and suggestions (including elements of community action plans developed during working sessions).

Plans are underway to link a number of community sites in B.C. to the project. Sponsoring agencies to date include Vancouver Community College and Douglas College. For more information, contact Gabriella Sharrard, Community Site Development Coordinator at (416) 256-5867 (Toronto).

The event is expected to be re-broadcast on cable and conventional television outlets as well as marketed on videocassette. A parallel version of the teleconference in French is scheduled for September. □

Literacy Training Now Available to UI Recipients

Qualified unemployment insurance recipients can continue to collect UI benefits while enrolled in basic skills or literacy training, under a new policy announced February 25 by Employment and Immigration Canada.

The policy, known as the Section 26 feepayer option, covers college programs, school district programs and provincially registered private training institutions, provided the training is a minimum of 25 hours per week. (Feepayer referral means that the UI claimant is referred by EIC to a

training course, and course fees are paid by the client or another agency.) In addition, the recipient must have been out of the school system for at least two years.

The policy includes adult basic education at the lower level (grade 0-7) and preparation for vocational training (grades 8-12), as well as basic skills and English language training necessary for integration into the labour market. Policy guidelines state that training is intended to: improve the client's ability to perform his/her usual occupation; prepare the client for a specific employment goal or opportunity; or prepare the client for enrollment in a particular skill training program.

For more information on the Section 26 policy contact your local EIC office. □

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

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1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.

684-0624 Lower Mainland

684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and distributed on the last working day of the month. It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.

Census Targets ABE Classrooms

C E N S U S • 1 9 9 1 • R E C E N S E M E N T



An education package for the June 4, 1991 Census directed at adult literacy and English as a second language classes is now available through Statistics Canada's regional offices.

The 1991 Census Adult Basic Education package consists of a teacher's guide with background information on census concepts, topics for discussion and exercises, and a student handbook. The handbook explains in plain language what a census is, how it works, the questions that are asked, why the census is important and how the information is processed. It is targeted to literacy students and to ESL students at a beginner to intermediate level.

All material may be reproduced.

The package was developed with assistance from the adult basic education program, King Edward Campus, Vancouver Community College.

Copies of the handbook and guide are available from:

Pacific Region Census Office
Statistics Canada
P.O. Box 30
250-815 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 1B4
Phone: 666-2328

Accreditation and Volunteers at ABEABC Conference

Two concurrent day-long working sessions on the issues of literacy instructor accreditation and the training and use of literacy volunteers are scheduled to coincide with the annual general meeting and conference of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. April 10-13 in Prince Rupert.

Funding for the April 10 sessions has been provided by the National Literacy Secretariat. The sessions are co-sponsored by the ABEABC

and Literacy B.C., who collaborated on selecting participants.

"The sessions are intended to draft a set of guiding principles which the ABEABC and other literacy groups can use as a framework for creating and planning professional accreditation and volunteer tutor programs," explains ABEABC President Patty Bossort. Each working session will be composed of 12 practitioners and learners from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and will include input from eight advisors who have been invited to participate. These include Arthur Bull, Ontario Ministry of Education, Robin Millar, from the (Manitoba) Movement for

Canadian Literacy, and representatives from other provinces for a national perspective, as well as two B.C. college and school district administrators.

Bossort says the organizers' intention was "to represent learners and the various delivery systems in all regions of the province." Participants will be responsible for presenting the guiding principles developed in the sessions to the groups they represent for assessment and possible ratification, and copies will be sent to all major literacy groups in Canada. Both the ABEABC and Literacy B.C. will organize information and discussion sessions on the issues as part of the conference

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schedule. Bossort says her expectation is that the ABEABC will support and vote for these principles at the annual general meeting.

The ABEABC and Literacy B.C. have developed a list of questions which each session will address. Questions for the instructor accreditation session include:

- * who should design, deliver and teach accrediting courses?
- * what should the content of such courses be?
- * should a provincial policy be implemented which would be nationally recognized?
- * what input should learners have in determining instructor qualifications and how should that input be obtained?

Questions for the volunteer tutoring group include:

- * are volunteers an integral and necessary part of the delivery of literacy services?
- * what are the criteria for quality training?
- * what professional support/resources need to be available on an ongoing basis?
- * on what basis should volunteers be selected or screened?

- * what input should learners have in determining tutor qualifications?
- * should there be established routes into professionalism for volunteers? □

Workshop on Needs Assessment at SFU

Needs assessment — what is it, how is it done, how can it be improved? These are some of the questions to be examined during a two day instructional workshop for adult educators April 18-19 at Simon Fraser University's Harbourside Campus, Vancouver.

The workshop is sponsored by the Pacific Association for Continuing Education (PACE), a professional organization of B.C. adult educators which supports cooperation among educators in industry, labour, business and the community.

Topics will include:

- * the role/appropriateness of needs assessment in program planning
- * developing practical needs assessment plans
- * collecting information through questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, etc.
- * alternatives to needs assessment
- * the role of values and ethics in needs assessment

The workshop will be conducted by Thomas S. Sork, Assistant Professor of Adult Education at the University of B.C. Sork has been an adult education researcher and practitioner for 19 years and taught program planning in graduate programs at the University of Nebraska and UBC.

The fee for non-PACE members is \$240.00 and registration in advance is limited to 20. For more information contact Simon Fraser University:

Phone: 291-5072

Fax: 291-5098. □

CAAE Conference in Fredericton

Workplace literacy and the role of community colleges in adult education are two of 40 workshop topics planned for the fourth annual conference of the Canadian Association for Adult Education (CAAE) May 8-11 at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

Keynote speakers are Stephen Lewis, journalist, commentator and former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, and Acadian writer and Prix Goncourt winner Antonine Maillet. The conference will also include an opportunity to examine the Fredericton Adult

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Learning Centre's collection of adult literacy computer software and other educational displays.

Workshops in preparation include "What happened to International Literacy Year?," "Future scenarios in adult education," and "Trolling for money in adult education."

For registration information and a complete workshop schedule, contact:

Adult Education: Making a Difference

P.O. Box 1574, Station A
Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2
Phone: (506) 453-3527 ☐

Unesco Literacy Prizes Deadline

The Canadian Commission for Unesco (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has announced April 15 as the deadline for nominations for its candidate for the 1991 Unesco International Literacy Prizes.

According to the Unesco rules governing eligibility, the prizes are designed to reward institutions, organizations or individuals who display outstanding merit and achieve particularly effective results in literacy and post-literacy activities and their integration in basic education programs. Unesco member states, such as

Canada, in consultation with their National Commissions, may each nominate one candidate. Selection of winners is by a jury of five persons of different nationalities appointed by the Unesco Director General for a minimum period of two years. Announcement of the prizes and honourable mentions is scheduled for International Literacy Day, September 8.

Some of the literacy-related activities which make institutions, organizations or individuals eligible are:

- * direct teaching
- * organizing programs at the local or national level
- * producing teaching materials or special media for programs
- * conducting research in related fields
- * conducting surveys important to literacy planning

Priority will be given to practical activities carried out in recognition of 1990, International Literacy Year.

For further information, contact:

Brad Munro
Program Officer (Literacy)
Canadian Commission
for Unesco
99 Metcalfe Street, Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8
Phone: (613) 598-4325
Fax: (613) 598-4390 ☐

Workplace Literacy at Alaska Conference

A half-day workshop on workplace literacy is one of the highlights of an international conference for teachers and trainers of adults May 15-18 in Anchorage, Alaska. The conference, "Adult Educators: Strength through Diversity" is hosted by the Northwest Adult Education Association, an affiliate of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education, and the Alaska Adult Education Association.

Other workshop topics include:

- * what's native about native education?
- * workforce development in the oil industry
- * understanding learning styles and learner diversity
- * prison education change
- * adult pre-job training
- * science and technology for the adult educator

Extended workshops (full day and half day) include topics such as:

- * new ideas and perspectives on adult learning theory
- * instructional technology (including a tour of the University of Alaska Adult

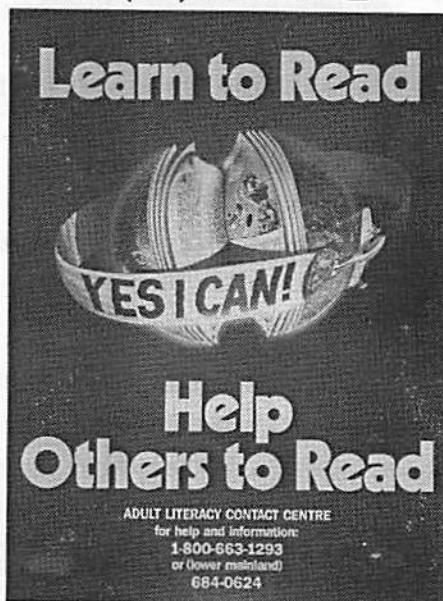
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Learning Centre and the Alaska Literacy Project).

Registration deadline for the conference is May 1. For more information on deadlines, hotel and travel packages, contact:

NWAEA/AEA Conference
Nine Star Enterprises
650 West International Airport
Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
Phone: (907) 563-3174 ☐



Copies of this 16 1/4" x 22" four-colour poster are available free of charge from the Contact Centre

Summer Literacy Institute in Montreal

The Centre for Literacy in Montreal is offering "Literacy: a Summer Institute" from June 25 to July 11 at its downtown Dawson College location. The Centre is a resource agency and teacher-training project designed to provide linking, training, research and information services to support and promote the advancement of literacy in schools, the workplace and the community. It houses a resource collection of over 3,000 books, documents and audio-visual literacy materials. The summer institute will provide an overview of current literacy theory and practice in Canada and the U.S.

For further information contact:

The Centre for Literacy
3040 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec
H3Z 1A4
Phone: (514) 931-8731
Fax: (514) 931-3567 ☐

THE LITERACY HOT LINE

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre provides information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to upgrade their skills through adult basic education. Our toll-free number for learners outside the Lower Mainland is:

1-800-663-1293

The hot line is open Monday to Friday 9:00 to 5:00 and Wednesday night from 6:00 to 9:00.

New Job Announcements

Provincial Literacy Coordinator Norma Kidd has been appointed to the position of Manager, Lower Mainland Colleges in the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. She will have province-wide responsibility for Native Programs. She will be assisted in her work by Ida Mills, Special Advisor on Native Programs.

The appointment took place March 18.

Kidd has held the Literacy Coordinator position since September, 1989 when she was seconded to the Ministry from the Maple Ridge Centre of Douglas College.

Dr. Paul Gallagher has resigned as President of Vancouver Community College to head up a province-wide initiative with a mandate to coordinate and direct the future development of post-secondary education and training in B.C.

Gallagher, VCC President since 1985, became Project Director of the B.C. Human Resource Development Project in February.